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KABUKI PLAY IN 5 ACTS.

Written by Tsuruya - Namboku.

TO BE PRESENTED BY SOMEGORO, MOSHIO,
SHIKAN AND EBIZO AT MITSUKOSHI THEATRE
FROM JULY, 1948.

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Synopsis:

Tamiya-Iyemon, detached retainer of the Enya clan, ruined himself by dissipation after his master's fall. Yotsuya-Saemon, his father-in-law, was very angry of his conduct and persuaded his daughter O-Iwa to divorce her husband. So Iyemon killed him by night.

Iyemon's neighbour, Ito-Kihei, was the head retainer to Kono-Moromao. O-Ume, Kihei's daughter fell in love with Iyemon. So Kihei ordered his masseur Takuetsu to poison O-Iwa to damage her beauty. Iyemon, half from mercenary purposes and half disgusted of his wife's destroyed looks, caused her to die of vexation.

Kobotoke-Kohei, Katanojo (an Enya ronin)'s footman; was found by Iyemon as he stole a draught of Tamiya's proprietary medicine to give his sick master. Iyemon caught him, killed him under the false charge of the improper connection with O-Iwa, and threw his body in a

canal near by, found back to back with O-Iwa's.

The spirits of the two hannted Iyemon by day and by night and causet him a miserable death at last.

*"SANKAKU
YASHIKI"* { O-Sode, O-Iwa's sister, who had married Sato-Yomoshichi (also an Enya ronin), had to live separated from her husband after his master's fall. Mistaking that her husband had died, she came to live with Naosuke, an eel fisher. Learning that Yomoshichi was alive, she led her two husbands in her room at a time and was killed by them.

Inquiring Xinto O-Sode's birth and parentage, Naosuke came to know that she was his own sister, and killed himself disgusted of his ignoble meanness.

This is a ghost drama of the later Yedo period, in which many tricks and transformations are with much skill.

A C T - I : (Scene I)

Campus of Asakusa Temple.

(The shrine in the middle back stage a tooth-pick shop on the right, where O-Sode sits in a yukata. Shozaburo lies with a rush-mat over him. Fumika, a man of fashion, Hikebei a merchant and Momosuke and Ishi, young men of the neighbourhood, sit in O-Taki's tea house.

She herself pours tea for them. The curtain rises.)

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Hikebei: Another cup, please.

Taki: Yes, sir. You seem to be very thirsty.

Hiko: Yes, I've run so much.

Fumi: I'd like to have a little rest here.

Taki: Please do so.

Momosuke: (Noticing O-Sode) Oh, when did she come? Look at her, Ishi.

Ishi: Ah, she's so dashing.

Taki: Oh, yes, she's too good for a tooth-pick shop. She came there yesterday.

Momo: She's nice, sure --- looks very like
Toasho. Hay, Kinokuniya ---.

Ishi: Oh, don't tease her.

(Meantime Naosuke and Tohachi, a drug
peddlers, come in through the stage passage.)

Tohachi: You said we'd crawl about. Hengo and
we're here in Honjo. How's that?

Naosuke: Oh, I've just got something to do
hereabout.

To : You needn't quibble. I know everything.
You're intimate with some bad woman and
don't even give the sale to Boss.

Nao: Oh, you're mistaken. I'll pay it some
day.

To: Well, shall we drink at Daisen?

Nao: All right.

To: Come on, come on.

(In a peddler's calling voice.)

(They come into the main stage.)

Taki: Have a cup of tea, will you?

Nao:) Thanks.
To:)

Momo: Give me your drug.

Ishi: For me, too.

To: Yes, thanks.

Momo: What is it for?

To: It's for hysterics, headaches and dizziness.

Nao: It's from Holland, aids the functions of secreting fluids.

Fuji: Seems to be good. Give me a parcel.

Nao: Yes, thanks.

Hiko: For me, too.

To:) Many thanks.

Nao:

Taki: Rest here a little.

Nao: You seem to be very busy. We'll rest at O-Men's.

To: Oh, I'll wait for you at Daisan, then.

Nao: All right. I'll stand you 2 go and a half of wine.

To: I'll wait for you there. Come soon.

Nao: All right.

(Tonachi goes out.)

Nao: (At the tooth-pick shop.)

Nao: You came here yesterday, Miss O-Soda?

Soda: Oh, yes. O-Men asked me to keep this shop in her place. I'm to be called O-Men now after.

Nao: Ah, we're to be good friends. Well,
will you let me rest a little?

Sode: Oh, yes.

(Takuetsu, a masseur, comes in.)

Taku: Good-day, O-Taki.

Taki: Oh, Mr. Takuetsu. You've been waited for.

Fumi: Is there someone suitable for me, Takuetsu?

Hiko: And for me?

Taki: Find then someone, will you?

Taku: Of course. We keep chambers for massag-
ing and moxacautery. So I'll find you
women of any age. I'll find you a young
girl if you order for less moxa and an
elderly one, if you ask for big. "Very
big" will mean a very old woman.

Fumi: Ah, that's well devised.

(Claps hands.)

Nao: What do you mean?

Fumi: Oh, nothing. Well, I'd like a big one.

Hiko: I prefer "less".

Momo: Do you keep a prostitute house?

Ishi: I'll go, too, then.

Momo: You're so bad for a religious man.

Taku: Oh, no. I don't do such a thing. Well,

my signboard shows a young woman/ can-
terizing the deity Emma with moxa. If
you pre-engage for ten nights a month,
that's very economical, for it's
only 1 bu 2 shu. If you prefer bigger
moxa, it's so very hot you'll feel as
if you were in the Hell.

Fumi: All right, I'll engage.

Hiko: I, too, for I've got crick in the back.

Fumi: We'll come later again.

Taki: We'll wait for you.

Taku: This way, please.

(Fumika and Hikebei go out ushered
by Takuetsu. Mamosuke and Ishi
follow them after whispering to each
other.)

Naosuke : Now, Miss O-Sode, I was footman to
Mr. Okuda Shogen, fellow retainer of your
father Mr. Yotsuya-Samon. All the re-
tainers of Lord En'ya became detached
from service out of the Lord's fall. It's
nothing that I've become a drug peddler,
but that you should keep a tooth-pick shop.
We part our lives in that way.

Sode: You're very kind to think so much of me.

Nao: It's more than that, for I've always/
wooed you ever since I was in service.
Won't you become my wife or mistress?

Sode: (Coldly) You're footman to Mr. Shogen,
my father's comrade. It's impertinent of you
to woo me only because we're out of service.

Nao: It's too formal of you to say such a thing.
I've got money enough, though I'm a
drug peddler.

(Produces money out of his pocket.)

Nao: I'll dress myself properly if you'd
accept me. I won't let you keep such
a shop as this, either.

Sode: I won't stay with a man I dislike,
even if in a palace,

Nao: You mean to put me to shame saying
such a thing? (Takes her by the sleeve.)

Sode: Oh, don't. (Retires from stage.)

Nao: (following her with his eyes.) She's
so stubborn. (Going to the tea-house.)
Give me a cup of tea.

Taki: Oh, yes. Well, Mr. Tohachi, your friend
called you Naosuke just now. Which's
your real name?

Nao: Oh, Tohachi is the name of the boss of
us drug peddlars. Mine is Nao suke.

Taki: Ah, I see. It's foolish of you to woo
her so, for she is to be engaged for a
night any time you like.

Nao: Why.

Taki : Hush. (Whispers in his ear.)

Nao: Ah, that is so --- she looks so serious,
though.

Taki: She's very hard up.

Nao: Call her in this very night.

Taki: But you can't said to be well-dressed.

Nao: I'll manage it. (Retires from stage.)

Taki: I'll pull some water now.

(Retires into the left.)

(Tsuburoku, Untetsu and Meda-
hachi, all beggars, and Dorohachi, a mendicant priest, come
in pulling Yotsuya-Samon, a ronin.
Tamiya I-yemon follows them after
a time.)

Beggars: Come, old man.

Tsuburoku: So audacious of him. They
say he took a commission from profe-
ssional beggars.

Beggars: Let's pull him off.

(They come into the main stage.)

Torota: I don't know who you are, old man,
but it's our custom to come to an under-
standing first.

Medahachi: It's so silly of you, when you're
so old.

Untatsu: Even the crickets have got inter-
courses.

Tsubu: Who, did you negotiate before begging
in this campus?

Doro: Let's just take him to the boss.

All: That's it.

(They shake Samon.)

Samon: All right, do what you like, for it
was bad of me to have disturbed your
custom.

Meda: What he does is quite against order.

Un: Let's take all his clothes.

All: That's it.

(They strike Samon, when Iyemon
tries to stop them.

Kihei, O-Ume, Bisen and O-Maki
come in and look at them.)

Iyemon: Wait a minute, please.

Samon: (Noticing Iyemon) Why, you're -----.

Tsubu: He may be your friend, sir, but he
has interrupted with our occupation.

Doro: Disturbed the order.

Un: Don't mind if this gentleman knows him.

Beggars: We needn't mind, of course.

Iye: Wait a minute, I say. Well, he isn't
my friend exactly, but --- oh, yes,
I was on my way to the Kannon temple and
found you teasing this old man. It
seems that he knows he is to blame, for
he doesn't resist at all. He understand
what you say, then. It's rather pitty,
for he is so old. Excuse him, please, I
pray you.

Tsubu: But, a warrior can't know what beggars'
customs are. We're to take his alms
and clothes.

All: That's the custom.

Iye: That's quite reasonable. I'll give
you some money, so take it and be con-
tented. (Gives them 4 shu.)

Samon: Oh, don't do that.

Ie: Leave it all to me now.

Tsubu: Folks, he's given 1 shu for us each.

Beggars: Many thanks.

Un: You're an excellent judge, sir.

Doro: Shall we have cup at Bentenyama ---.

Meda: Before others join us?

Beggars: Quite well. Thanks, sir.

(They retire from stage.)

Samon: (Looking round himself) I'm quite
hard up as you must see. I'm so
grateful for your kindness just now.
I'll return it/ tomorrow without fail.
(About to go.)

Iye: Wait a little, if you please.

(Taking Samon by the hand.)

n Don't say such a thing, please. My
wife's father is father to me, even
if I've been separated from O-Iwa.

Samon: I wished to refuse the offered money
for I knew you'd say so.

Iye: Why, please?

Samon: Oh, we're just strangers now that
you've been divorced.

Iye : Mr. Samon, why won't you let O-Iwa return to me? We aren't disgusted of each other at all. Moreover, she expects a baby, you know. What has displeased you ?

Samon: Ask it of yourself.. O-Iwa was bad, of course, to have married you of her own accord, without my consent. Though I let her go her own way that time, I can't bear you now.

Iye: Why ?

Samon: The reason is this: it was when my lord prospered. Some money was lost from the public money. I knew well who stole it, but I didn't say anything. The unfortune came soon and ~~the~~ the search was given up. But, anyway, I can't have my daughter married to a thief.

Iye: Oh, shut up! Have you got any proof?

Samon: Don't dig your own grave, sir.

Every piece of the money you sent to my daughter beared my lord's seal.

Iye: Why?

Samon: I didn't say anything about it for
O-Iwa's sake, but I returned for Iwa's
sake, but I returned all the sam to you.

Iye: Oh, it was the allotment.

Samon: Don't lie. What for did you
receive an allotment when the clan
wasn't yet broken up?

Iye: Well ---.

Samon: You can't justify yourself. That's
why I won't let O-Iwa go back to you.

Iye: Is that the last answer?

Samon: It's no use disputing any more.
Well, I'll go home.

(Samon goes out.)

Iye: (Following Samon with his eyes)
He has noticed of my crime. I can't
have him live on. Oh, yes, I'll
follow him and ---.

(Hurries out.)

(Kihei, O-Ume, O-Maki and Bisen
come in and follow Iyemon with
their eyes.)

Kihei: He seems not to be faithful to the En'ya clan. It'll be convenient for knowing the circumstances of the Enya ronins if we take him in and recommend him to Lord Kono.

Maki: It'll do good for Miss O-Ume's disease, too.

Ume: How I long for him.

Kihei: Eh?

(O-Ume hides her face.)

Shosaburo: (Who has appeared into stage and watched.) Will you give me some money?

Kihei: Give him something.

Footman: (Giving Shosaburo a little money)
Here you are.

Sho: Oh, thanks. Congratulate you on your prosperity.

Kihei: What prosperity?

Sho: I hear that your master's mansion is to be changed. He's to be promoted, isn't he? Where is he to move?

Kihei: What do you a beggar ask it for?

Sho: And do you know who my master is?

Sho: Oh, I don't, sir. But I envy him his good fortune.

Kihei: It's admirable of you to congratulate my master his good fortune. I'll tell you about it, then, My master is Lord Kono, first retainer of the Shogun's court. He is to move to Katsushika, beyond Hanamizubashi, where he's to get a new manor and build a new mansion. He prospers very much and all his retainers are to have their fief added.

Sho: That's to be his town house, isn't it --- Katsushika, beyond Hanamizubashi?

(While listening to Kihei's words, he has thrown the alms he got from Kihei. He has done it in secret, but has been found by Eisen.)

Eisen: You impertinent beggar, what for do you throw the money you've got?

Sho: Oh, no! I don't.

Kihei: Thrown the money I've given? Ah,
I see. He's of the Enya clan and has
inquired me of Lord Koya's residence
with the intention to shadow him.

Bisen: Let's pull him to the mansion and
have him out with all by torturing
him.

(Shosaburo knocks Bisen down after
a little fight.)

Kihei: He's too good for a beggar.

Sho: I'm not born a beggar, of course, and
have been fond of wrestling. It's
my weak point. I've been turned out
of my house because of a quarrel, and
so have become a beggar. I won't
be out and tortured.

(A fighting scene, during which
Shosaburo drops the circular
letter.)

Bisen: (Picking it up) This is a circular
of the conspiracy gang.

Sho: Oh, that shan't be taken.

(Shosaburo tries to get it back.

Bisen runs into the stage passage
with it in his hand Yomoshichi
Sato, dressed like a peddler,
comes into the stage passage,
Snatches the letter from Bisen
and comes into the main stage.)

Bisen: (Following Shosaburo into the main
stage) Give it back to me, merchant.

Sho: (To Yomoshichi) Why, you're Sato.

Yomo: You mad beggar.

Bisen: Oh, he isn't mad at all. He asked
where the new mansion of Lord Kono
is to be. He must be an Enya ronin.
So I ---.

Yomo: Then you're ---.

Bisen: This gentleman is Mr. Ito-Kiheï,
Lord Kono's first retainer.

Yomo: So he is.

Bisen: We'll just pull him with us and
torture him.

Yomo: You don't say so. What for is it?

Kiheï: What?

Yomo: His lord may have been killed of
fault, but his family is not to be
broken off because of that.

Kiheï: Well ---.

Bisen: But why did you take the letter
I carried?

Yomo: (showing him some toilet-paper) Do
you mean this? I took it because I
thought you were giving advertizing
bills. Excuse me, please.

Bisen: It is not this. I mean the circular
I took from this beggar.

Yomo: I know nothing about it. I think
you're mistaken. Now, mad beggar,
did you drop a circular?

Sho: Oh, it was just toilet paper.

Yomo: He says so. You seem to be a little
out of your wit, too, Doctor.

Bisen: Don't fool me. But ---.

Kihe: All right, don't mind. They can
do no harm at all.

Yomo: Excuse him, for he's quite mad.

Bisen: You patronize him too much. You
must be also ---

Yomo: What?

Kihe: Oh, leave him, Bisen. He's
mad.

Yogo: Oh, thanks. Go to the fields, mad
beggar.

Sho: Thanks, gentlemen.

(Yomoshichi signs and lets Shosaburo know that the circular is in his packet. Shosaburo goes out.)

Maki: Oh, I was so afraid.

Ume: Yes. Shall we go now?

Kihei: Sorry to have kept you waiting.

Take the palanquine, O-Ume.

Bisen: Shall we go?

Yogo: Fare you well, gentlemen.

Kihei: Well, about that renin, ---.

Ume: How I wish to see him again.

Kihei: Do you? So do I.

Maki: Shall we go?

(Kihei, O-Ume, O-Maki, Bisen
and the footman go out.)

Yomo: (Left alone and looking at the
circular.) It was a narrow escape.

(O-Iro, the masseur Takutsu's
wife, comes in.)

Iro: Good day. Oh, is the mistress out?

Yomo: Will a tea house prosper if a man keeps it ?

Iro: Why, Yomoshichi. You're a regular lady-killer. --- Well, there's a splendid woman.

Yomo: I've heard of her. Is she so pretty?

Iro: Yes, she's there. (Points to the tooth-pick shop.)

Yomo: In O-Mon's shop?

Iro: O-Mon is ill and asked her to take her place. They say she's very poor.

Yomo: She looks like Tesuo, they say.

Iro: Very much. And she's so gentle and has served at a warrior's house.

Yomo: Good. And what's her name.

Iro: I don't know. But she's to be O-Mon now.

Yomo: I see. Will she be engaged for tonight?

Iro: Of course.

Yomo: That 's good. (Thinks for a while.)
(To himself) But, about Okuda's son
(Shosaburo) ---.

Iro: Oh, the barr Daimitsu is better than the barr Okuda.

Yomo: To become a beggar (Komo-Kaburi), even if for his master.

Iro: You can't drink a barrel (komokaburi).

5 go is enough.

Yomo: He must have met much trouble.

Iro: Oh, it 's the world of pains.

(hell; prostitute house.)

Yomo: Oh, you're so funny, O-Iro.

(The stage goes round.)

SCENE II.

Takuetsu's House.

(A "Hell Inn", or a brothel of very low class. Ragged screens, broken doors, etc. Two signboards over the doorway, one bearing a figure of ~~Emma~~ cauterizing the skin with moxa, the other bearing the letters "employment agency". Lanterns, mats, etc., in the room.)

(As the curtain opens, Yemoshichi comes into stage ushered by O-Iro. Soon Shota, son of the wine dealer Daimitsu, also comes in.)

Iro: Where are you going, Shota?

Shota: To your house.

Iro: Who told you to?

Shota: Mrs. Gakudo

Iro: Hand it to me.

Shota: Oh, I'll hand it to the one who ordered it.

Iro: I'll pay for it.

Shota: It's been paid for, already. We won't carry our things to your house if not paid for before.

Iro: Don't say that before my guest.

Shota: I'll accompany you to your house, after all.

Shota: Well, I'll go now. (Puts the bottle on the floor.)

(Fumika, Hikobei and the prostitute O-Dai come in quarrelling with one another.)

O-Dai's eye-brows have fallen off and she wears a wig over her bald head. Soon Takuetsu follows them.)

Dai: Oh, catch them, please, my boy.

Shota: O.K. (catches them.)

Dai: They wouldn't pay their bill.

Shota: It's bad of you, men.

Fumi & Hiko): But she's so ugly

Shota: Oh, you both shared your bed with her knowing how she looked. You two shall be howled by howled by children whenever you come near here, if you won't pay your bill.

Fumi: That's too bad.

Shota: We'll create a bad reputation, making a mountain out of a molehill.

Fumi & Hiko): All right, all right, we'll pay.
(pay)

Sho: Hum. You'll be excused.

Fumi & Hiko): It's as if we've been peeled out of our clothes by the river Sanzu. (A river supposed to be in the Buddhist Hell.)
(The two escape from stage.)

Dai: Thanks, my boy. Give me the money.

Shota: Yes. But, look there.

Dai: What? (Turns round.)

Shota: You fool. (Runs off with the money.)

Dai: Why, boy, robber ----. (Runs after the boy.)

Iro: How noisy.

Taku: He has run off without paying his bill.

Iro: Too bad. But I've brought a good guest for you. Step in, sir.

Yomo: Excuse me.

Taku: Welcome, sir.

Yomo: Thanks. I'm rather in a hurry.

Iro: Is O-Mon here?

Taku: Yes.

Iro: That's nice. Call her in.

Taku: He won't run off without paying?

Iro: Of course not.

Taku: All right. I'll bring her.

(He goes out. O-Iro carries the lantern behind the screen. It becomes darker.)

Yomo: Why, it's so dark.

Iro: It's the "Hell", you know.

Sode (coming in): It can't be helped, I'm afraid.

Iro: Your guest is a gentleman, you know.

Be polite to him.

Sode: Yes, thanks.

Iro: Good-bye, sir.

(O-Iro pushes O-Sode to Yojashichi's bed and goes out.)

Sode (approaching him timidly): Are you asleep, sir?

Yomo: Of course not. I'd stay home to go to sleep alone. Well, come here.

Sode: Yes, sir.

Yomo: Don't hesitate. It's so dark I can't see you. I'll bring the light nearer.

Sode: Please don't.

Yomo: Bashful? Hay. (Takes her hand.)

Sode: I've got something to ask of you.

Yomo: Well, what's that?

Sode: It's too much to ask it of you, but relieve me from going to bed with you, for I'll tell you why I've come into this profession.

Yomo: I don't understand a bit. Just go on.

Sode: Well, it's a disgrace for me to tell you this, but I'm of a samurai family by birth. My father has been detached of his service and my elder sister who is pregnant of a baby has been divorced. We've always been poor, of course, but ever since she came back to live with us, we're so hard up

that I work at a toothpick shop in day and work here at night. I always ask my guests to overlook me, telling them this story.

Yomo: It's too bad that you should have to do such a thing as this for your father. But, why don't you become a prostitute of higher class in Yoshiwara?

Sode: I can't, for my father and sister don't know this.

Yomo: You're so kind to them. I've become more touched than ever. Now, listen. Some of your guests may get angry at your request. You'd better become a mistress of some big seignor.

Sode: I won't ask you to relieve me, if I could do that.

Yomo: Are you engaged to someone, to refuse to give yourself?

Sode: Not exactly.

Yomo: You needn't have refused me, then.

Sode: Excuse me, please.

Yomo: Oh, it's not so bad as you suppose.
(Takes her hand.)

Sode: Oh, please don't. (As she moves off, the screen falls and they sit face to face in the light of the lantern.)

Yomo: Why, you're my wife.

Sode: And you, Yomoshichi. How I feel Shameful.

Yomo: Now, O-Sode. You've forgotten all about me and do such a thing only because I haven't written to you since my lord's fall. It's disgusting of you to have entered into such life of lust, when you've got a husband.

Sode: It's reasonable of you to be angry with me, but it's not out of lust that I do this. It's only for my father, for he has lost his position for my lord's fall. You've been so cruel and haven't even sent a letter. But I've always stayed faithful to you through many troubles. It's been for the wish of seeing you again that I've kept myself chaste. I am to resent you, for you came here and tried to lie with me, without knowing that I was your wife.

You've got time enough to enjoy yourself in these places, but have no time to write a letter to your wife. Oh, it's too much.

Yomo: Ah, I'm so sorry for that, you must have had a bad time of it. Well, I often wished to write to you, but -----

Sode: Oh, I don't resent you for not writing letters, for I know all your revenge plan and -----

Yomo: Oh, don't say that I'm a peddler and far from revenging.

Sode: You think that women are not to be relied upon, but I know that it's all a trick that you make merry -----

Yomo: Tricks and enemies are far from me now. Now, O-Sode, let's have a good time together after a long time of absence.

Sode: It was careless of me --- well, I'm glad you're well.

Iro (coming in): Let me have a tip, if it's been settled.

Yomo (taking some money out of his purse.): It'll be amusing to give tips for my own wife. Oh, where's the wine I've ordered?

Iro: Just there. Well, have a good time. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
(Goes out)

Yomo: Have a cup, wife.

Sode: Oh, you speak quite like a merchant.

Yomo: Oh, don't be so old-fashioned.
(Meantime Naesuke has opened the shoji on the right and eavesdropped)

Sode: You used not to drink.

Yomo: Don't be so particular. (Drinks.)

Sode: You've been to other brothers, haven't you?

Yomo: Oh, no. I came here because you were here.

Sode: Did you know it, then?

Yomo: Not exactly. Well -- don't be so particular. Now, O-Sode, you've met many men. You must have given yourself to some of them.

Sode: I swear I haven't. You know how I refuse my guests.

Yomo: You refused me because you knew me.

Sode: Of course not.

Yomo: You've become skilful in wheedling. You'll have your tongue taken by Rama when you die. (Buddhist punishment for lying)

Sode: Oh, don't be afraid of it, for I've suffered the Hell here in this world.

Yomo: Surely you have. It's meeting the Buddha in the Hell that I found you here.

Sode: Let's never part from each other even in the next world.

Yoko & Sode): How happy we are to see each other again. (They embrace. Yomoshichi takes O-Sode's purse out of her pocket, and O-Sode, the circular out of his.)

Yomo: How is it that you've got so much money when you've said you're poor?

Sode: Oh, a circular.

Yomo (snatching the letter): I won't have it read even by my wife. And how about the money.

Sode: Well, it is ----- Oh, let's talk in bed.
(O-Sode circulate the bed with screens.
Naosuke peeps into the screens and then claps his hands angrily, Takuetsu and O-Iro come in.)

Taku: Please be quiet, sir.

Iro: It's late, you know.

Nao: Shut up. You've planned a doubled dealing.

Taku: Don't speak so loudly, please. When did we do that?

Nao: The girl I engaged lies here behind the screens.

Iro: Oh, she isn't monopolized

Nao: What? Then she is a swindler and you're accomplices.

Iro: Have you got any proof?

Nao: The proof is that the man lying in there is also a robber.
(As he speaks and roars, Yomoshichi and O-Sode come out from behind the screens.)

Yomo: Whom do you call robbers?

Nao: Oh, just you two.

Yomo: Why, it seems I've seen you before.

Nao: Surely you have, for I was footman to Mr. Okuda, your fellow retainer. I'm now a drug peddler called Tohachi. It's to put me to shame to interrupt me when I've given all my earnings to this woman.

Yomo: Why, then, was that money -----?

Nao: I gave my purse with all its contents in her keeping, hoping she'll listen to me sooner or later. Moreover, you call her your wife and have drunk my wine. Ha, I'm quite mad with anger. It isn't enough to call you robbers. I'll excuse you, however, if you'll give her equally to me. (Leans against O-Sode.)

Yomo: Oh, never. She's a warrior's wife and shan't lay with another man for money.

Nao: A warrior? No, you're a ronin and a fancy goods peddler.

Yomo: Why.

Nao: You call her your wife, but who stood as the go-between? You may have married each other with your own accord, but she's a prostitute and I'm a guest. Why you, a warrior,

have sent your wife to this kind of a place?

Yomo: Well -----

Nao: Or, can you support her father?

Yomo: But -----

Nao: You can't, you see. I remain kind to her and offer to give extra money to support her father. It's silly of her to prefer a good-for-nothing ronin. Just give me back my money if you don't want any money.

Yomo (mortified): I've saved some money, of course, but it's the apportionment and I can't use it for my private use.

Nao: Why?

Yomo: No, I can't.

Sode (producing the before-said purse out of her pocket): Here's the money. (Throws the money to Naosuke.)

Sode: You're contented now, aren't you?

Nao: I won't grumble, anyway.

Sode: You spoke very kindly and gave it to me. It was my fault that I kept it with me even for a time. But it's too much of you to call us robbers and so on. I'm so glad you'll never woo me again in that detestable way.

Nao: Oh, you hate me so much?

Soda: Oh, I object even to looking at you.

Tohachi (coming in): Where can Naosuke be?

Here about, I think.

(At the door) Good evening.

(Opening the door) Ah, here he is.

Nao: Why, you're ----- (About to escape.)

To: I thought you were here. It's very audacious of you to have indulged in this sort of life, without even paying your commission to our boss.

Nao: I'm not so bad. I'll pay all my dues tomorrow.

To: What for are you here, then?

Nao: Well, I'm here ----- well, my shoulders ache, so I've come to have cauterized with moxa.

Iro: Surely he has.

~~Taku~~ Taku: Here's the moxa. Let me cauterize you at once.

Nao: Oh, you needn't

To: This is a brothel after all.

Nao: Oh, no. (Takes off his clothes over the shoulders.

Iro: Here. (cauterizes)

Nao: How hot. It's enough.

To: Is your moxa so good as to have effects only with one cauterizing? Now, I am to take the sale and the remaining drugs.

Nao: I'll take it tomorrow.

To: Our boss said that you mustn't never visit him again. He told me to take the sale from you.

(Naosuke produces his purse out of his pocket.)

To: There. And give me your clothes, too.

Nao: My clothes, too?

To: The boss has given it to you. You needn't wear a haori to have your shoulders cauterized.

(Takes off all Naosuke's things.)

(At the door) Sorry to have disturbed you.

Taku: Oh, he can't pay us his tip, then.

Nao: Oh, I needn't pay, for I've got the mitten.

Taku: See what you deserve, Naosuke.

Yomeshichi (who has observed all): He was well-dressed and looked to be quite rich, though he really was poor. It was all his boss's things. If he could use his boss's money, all the safe-keepers are millionaires. He called us robbers, and he proved to be one himself.

Sode: It was lucky of me not to have taken his money!

(Naosuke sits dejected.)

Taku: Oh, don't sit in my house naked.
Iro: Go out at once.
Nao: Oh, I'm going. What a shame.
Yomo: He doesn't much mind his shame and doesn't even pay for the maza.
Sode: As for us, let's go hand in hand.
Taku: We'll lend you a lantern.
Yomo: This is for the lantern. (Gives them 2 shu.)
Iro: Oh, thank you.
Yomo: Mind what he does in your house.
Taku: We'll just turn him out at once.
Iro: Here's the lantern.
Sode: Now, my dear.
Yomo: Let's have a good time together.
Nao: You needn't display so much.
Yomo: Do you envy me?
Nao: Oh, no. (To himself) I'll just follow them.
Sode & Yomo): Let's have a good talk.
Nao: The lantern will be the mark.
Taku (to Naosuke): Go out at once.

(The married couple go out embracing each other. The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)

Scene III

In the Fields near Asakusa.

(The fields behind the Kannon temple.

A straw-rick and a stone Jizo on the right hand.

Shosaburo prays in silent meditation. Soon he finishes praying and looks round.)

Shosaburo: About noon today I dropped the circular letter in the Kannon campus. And Mr. Yomoshichi happened to pass by and seemed to have picked it up. I wish to hear what's happened to the letter.
(Yomoshichi comes in with a lighted lantern.)

Yomo: Shosaburo must be hereabouts.

Sho: Is that you, Mr. Yomoshichi?

Yomo: I've searched you for a long time.
You must be more careful, how ever young you may be. Your conduct this afternoon would have let the Kono retainer suspect who you really were, if I hadn't passed by.

Sho: Thank you for your kind advice.
And how about the circular I dropped?

Yomo: I picked it up. I'll take it at once to Yamashina through Kamakura and urge the people there to get ready.

Sho: Why, you must be very careful in Kamakura,
so you'd better change clothes with me.

Yomo: That'll be good. And you'll do
the liaison work in Edo. Well,
shall we change clothes?

(They change clothes.)

Sho: And this lantern?

Yomo: Oh, a beggar doesn't need one.
Take it with you, please.

Sho: See you again, Mr. Yomoshichi.

Yomo: Fare you well. (Goes out clothed in the straw.)

Sho: Now I feel at ease. But it'll be troublesome
if my fellow beggars see me in this suit of
clothes. Now I'll go off here at once.

(Goes out.)

(Samon comes hurrying in through the
stage passage. Iyemon follows him.)

Iye: Wait a minute, please Mr. Samon.

Please give me back O-Iwa, for she expects a baby.
(Samon walks on, ignoring Iyemon.)

It's impolite of you to go on without answering me.

Samon: Oh, do you know what the word impolite means? I gave my daughter to you and then got her back from you because I got disgusted of you. I won't give O-Iwa back to you. That's quite settled.

Iye: Really and truly?

Samon: Really and truly.

Iye: You're a stranger to me now.

I announce I will kill you without fail.

Samon: I won't be killed by you, for I'm Yotsuya-Samon, old as I've grown.

Iye: I won't let you continue your words.

(Iyemon gives Samon a cut. A fighting scene.

Samon entrenches himself behind the stone Buddha. Soon Iyemon stabs Samon.

They go out into the right while fighting.

After a pause, Shosaburo Sato comes clad in Yomoshichi's clothes. Naosuke follows him into stage and, taking him for Yomoshichi, kill him with his dagger.)

Nao: You're my rival in love, Yomoshichi.

(Gives a coup de grace. Then he hides his dagger behind a hedge.)

(Soon Samon comes in wounded and stained with blood. Iyemon follows him and gives him a coup de grace.)

Iye: He's such a stubborn old man.

It serves him right.

Nao(staring at Iyemon through the dark):

Oh, you're Mr. Tamiya.

Iye: And you're Maosuke, Okuda's footman.

Nao: I've killed Sato-Yomoshichi, my rival in love.

Iye: I was forced to kill Samon, my wife's father,
for he deprived me of my wife and got
the wind of my having stolen the public money.

Nao: We've done/ just the same thing.

Iye: It's a strange coincidence.

(They both hide themselves behind a tree,
when O-Iwa, Iyemon's wife, comes in through
the stage passage.)

Iwa: It's so late. Why father hasn't come
back yet? I feel so uneasy, for he's very old.
Where can he be by now?

(When she reaches the main stage,
O-Sode comes in from the left with a little
lantern and rushes against O-Iwa.)

Sode: Oh, excuse me. I was in such a hurry.

Iwa(Noticing O-Sode): Why, you're O-Sode.

Sode:/ Oh, sister. Well, I happened to meet Yomoshichi my fiancée. But, as he's gone somewhere after talking with me for a while, I'm looking for him. I feel such a flutter about him.

Iwa: Oh, do you? I'm looking for father and I also feel very uneasy. I wish nothing will happen.

Sode(looking round): A gloomy place, isn't it? --- Oh, much blood.
(Soon O-Iwa finds Samon's body and O-Sode, Shosaburo's.)

Iwa: Why, father ----.

Sode: And this is Yomoshichi's clothes.

Both: What shall we do? (Weep.)

(Iyemon and Maosuke appear from behind the tree.)

Iwa: Oh, father, father.

Cheer up and tell me. Who's your enemy?

Sode: My father and my husband have died at a time.

Both: It's such a pity ----.

Iwa: That they should have died without even leaving parting words.

(The two women weep; when Iyemon and Naosuke approach them with big sounds of steps.)

Iye: What can I woman's weeping
voice mean in this darkness of the night? ---
Why, you're O-Iwa.

Iwa: Oh, Iyemon, my father has been killed.

Iye: Whose doing can it be?
I shouldn't have had him killed if I were here.

Nao: And this is Mrs. O-Sode, I suspect.
And the body ---- oh, it's Yomoshichi's.

Sode: He's been killed, too.

Nao: Such a pity.

Iye: It must have been that
he came to his father-in-law's aid and they both
got killed. The enemy must have been
a very clever fighter to have killed them both.

Nao(as if about to commit a happy despatch):

Hail to the Buddha Mitabha.

Iye: What for do you try to kill yourself, Naosuke?

Nao: Oh, I must die, for I've often wooed
Mrs. O-Sode and been refused. Everybody
will think that I am the murderer.

Iye: Your fear is reasonable, but you've got no blade at all. Moreover, they were both good fighters that no one will ever think that you, a footman, could have killed them. Just live on the show that you're innocent by helping O-Sode in revenging.

Nao: Oh, that'll be my greatest wish.
I'll do anything for her, even if what happens.

Iwa: I've done everything I could in my poverty to let father lead a better life. I've got no hope at all now that he's died.

Sode: It all has become useless that we two have suffered much.
Moreover, it's so sad a fate that I should have to part from my longed-for husband after so short a reunion. Our relation has been so uncertain.

Iwa: I'd like to die here with my father ---.

Sode: And my husband.

Both: Let's start on our journey to the Hades, the four together.

(They are about to kill themselves

O-Iwa with Canon's sword and O-Sode, with Iyemon's dagger. The men stop them.)

Iye: Who'll take revenge, if you both die now?

Iwa):
Sode) Well ----.

Iye: O-Sode has got reasons to die,
for she has lost both her father and husband.
But, as for you, O-Iwa, it'll be against
your duty to your husband if you kill
yourself.

Iwa: But I've been divorced from you.

Iye: We've not yet been formally divorced.
So your father's enemy is mine, too.

Iwa: Do you offer to help me in revenging, then?

Iye: Of course.

Sode: Oh, I envy you, for you aren't
disgusted of each other at all and are to live
together again.

Nao: Well, Mrs. O-Sode, I feel it my duty to
let you take revenge of your husband.
Give yourself into my care and let me
help you, please.

Iye: I should think Maosuke stands in reason,
O-Sode. Marry him just for formality's
sake and succeed in avenging.

Sode: But, it'll be against my duty to
Yomoshichi to call Naosuke my second husband.

Nao: Just for formality's sake.

Sode: But ----.

Iwa: I pray you to do so, O-Sode. Do so, will you?

Sode: Well, then, ---

Nao: Oh, will you?

Sode: I think I should do so,
just for ~~a~~ formality's sake.

Iye): Then you both can be each other's support.
Iwa)

Nao: All be well by and by.

(Smiles to himself.)

(Medahachi and Dorota, the beggars,
steal in and watch. They approach Iyemon
and Naosuke stealthily, when Iyemon
gives Medahachi a hard cut
and Naosuke catches Dorota by the arm.

Iye: That's just to celebrate our vendetta ---

Nao: And our wedding.

Iwa: Have cups of wedding, both of you.

Nao): Well, by and by ----.
Iye)

(They knock down the beggars. Iyemon
and O-Sode salute before the bodies of Samon
and the supposed Yomoshichi, that is, Shosaburo.)

The curtain falls with the sound
of wooden clappers, as the sisters burst
into tears over their father's body.)

ACT II.

Scene I.

Iyemon's Retreat at Yotsuya.

(As the curtain rises, Iyemon is mending umbrellas. Takuetsu, a masseur, makes a fire in the left stage. Chobei, a dashing man, comes running in.)

Chobei: Mr. Iyemon, I've found Kodaira.

Iyemon: Oh, Mr. Akiyama, have you?

Cho: Yes, I found him on my way to Shimbori.
This is the medicine he fled with, isn't it?

Iye: Certainly. And where's Kodaira?

Cho: Oh, there comes Kanzo.
(Kanzo Sekiguchi, a detached warrior, comes in with Kohei --- Matanojo Shiota's footman --- bound in a rope.)

Kohei: Excuse me, please.

Kanzo: That won't do.

Tomosuke (Iyemon's footman): How daring of him.

Kan & Tomo): Come right in.

Iye: Thanks for your trouble.

Takuetsu: No, Kohei, why on earth have you come to do such a thing?

Kohei: Mr. Chobei has taken the medicine away from me. I haven't robbed you of any other thing. Excuse me please.

Iye: How can I, when you've robbed me of my thing!

Kan: His master is Matanojo Shieta, one of your fellow retainers of the Enya clan.

Iye: That's so strange. Are you his footman, really?

Kohei: Yes, I am. My father was in his service, too. Esq. Matanojo lost his position by the fall of the Enya clan. Moreover, he has fallen seriously ill. I was tempted to steal the medicine by his misery. It was for my fidelity to my master. Excuse me, please.

Iye: Oh, have your master ordered you to steal my proprietary medicine to cure him his illness?

Kohei: Oh, no; he knows nothing of it. It was my sudden impulse.

Iye: It's a crime to steal, whatever the cause may be. Is it the law that one won't be accused of stealing if the cause is the fidelity to his master? I'll excuse you, on condition that you'd have me snap your fingers.

Cho: That'll be a good amusement.

Kan: It's a cheap compensation for his life.

Tomo: I'll help you, too.

Taku: Oh, it's too poor. Don't, please.

Kohei: Wait a little, please. I'll not be able to feed my master and my father if I become deformed.

Three: That's no concern of ours.

Kohei: Oh, I pray you, for heaven's sake -----.

Iye: Gag him, felks.

Kan & Teme): All right. (Gag Kohei)

Tomo: Here, now.

Kan: Let's pull out his hair, first.

Teme: Certainly.

(They tease Kohei. O-Maki, nurse to the Ito family comes through the stage passage, accompanied by a footman.)

Maki (at the gate): Good day.

Cho: Someone's there.

Iye: Put him in the closet,

Kan: All right.

(Kanze & Teme take Kohei into the closet.)

Taku (at the door): Well, where are you from?

Maki: I'm from Esq. Kihei Ito, your neighbour.

Cho: Ah, I see. You're Madame O-Maki, the nurse, aren't you.

Come right in, please.

Maki: Thanks.

Cho (to Iyemon): She's from Esq. Kihei.

Iye: Oh, has she? Is your master all right?

Maki: Yes, thank you. My master has sent me to congratulate you for your lady's having got a baby. These things are from him.

Iye: Oh, it's too kind of him.

Maki: And this powder is a remedy for woman's dizziness. It's for your lady O-Iwa.

Iye: It's very kind of him. I'll give it to her at once.

(A baby cries behind stage.)

Maki: There cries the baby. Is it a boy?

Iye: He's a boy.

Maki: Congratulations to you. Why, he cries so hard. I'll tend him.

Iye: Will you, please?

Maki: All right. (to the footman) Go ahead. I'll follow you at once.

Footman: Certainly, ma'am.

Maki (to Iyemon): Excuse me.

(Goes behind the screen where O-Iwa lies.

The footman retires.

Chebei takes to the dishes and bottles O-Maki has brought.)

Che: Shall we have a feast now?

Iye: How greedy you are.

(They drink. Tenokuraya-Mesuke, a pawnbroker, comes in with a froeshiki in his hand.)

Mesuke: Is Mr. Iyemon in?

Iye: Certainly I am.

Mosuke: I'm so glad. Well, I've come for the
mosquito-curtain and the mats I've lent you.
I'm to get 3-bu 2-shu for rent. You may
prefer whichever you like - give back my
things or pay the money.
And, about the 5 ryo I lent you last year ----

Iye: I'm sorry I haven't said anything about it,
but we've been so busy, you see. I'll pay
it in a few days.

Mosuke: I can't wait any more.

Iye: It's so heartless of you.

Mo: All right, then, I'm to tell you landlord,
then. (About to go.)

Cho: Wait a little, for I'm to answer for it.

Mo: You can answer for nothing whatever. I know
it by experience. (About to go.)

Iye: Wait, Mr. Tonokura.

Mo: What?

Iye: Here's 5 yen for you.

Mo: Really?

Iye: Not in money, but in our proprietary
medicine.

Mo: Medicine?

Iye: It's Sokisai, the proprietary medicine of
our family. It's worth 20 ryo. Take it
for 5 ryo.

Mo: Well, there's a doctor's certificate.
I think I'll take it. Now, I'll take the
mosquito curtain and the mats.

Iye: Oh, it's -----

Mo: I'm to take it with me if you won't pay the
3bu 2 shu.

Maki (checking Mosuke): It's rude of you to intrude the
lady's room. I'll just give you the money.
(Gives the money to Mosuke.)

Mo: Why, it's koban.

Maki: Take care that the lady won't hear us.

Mo: Oh, thanks.

Iye: I don't know how to ever thank you.

Maki: Don't mind, please. Well, I think I must
be going now.

Mo: I'll go with you, then. Well, about the
medicine, Mr. Iyemon -----.

Iye: Keep it for the time. Thanks, lady nurse.

Maki: See you again.
(O-Maki & Mosuke go out.)

Cho: Well, Mr. Tamiya, the Itos have been very
kind to you. I'd better go & greet them.

Iye: Yes, but -----.

Cho: What's the trouble?

Iye: Well, Kihei is a retainer to Kono, and I am one of the Enya clan.

Two: Ah, that's it.
(a baby cries.)

Iye: He cries so. Open the door, Takuetsu.
(Takuetsu opens the sliding door.
O-Iwa sits in a mosquito curtain with a baby in her arms.)

Iye: Do you feel better, O-Iwa?

Iwa: It's very kind of you to ask about my health, but I'm poorly.

Iye (finding a neat coat over the bay): Why, what about the new coat?

Iwa: It's from the lady dowager of Esq. Kihei's house. Will you go and thank him?

Iye: I see. But, I don't know why they send me so many things to us.

Cho: Well, don't be too obstinate about the past. He may have been your enemy before, but now, you've got no master. Just visit them.

Iwa: That's it. And they're our neighbours, you know.

Iye: I think it's reasonable. But it's out of customs to visit them abruptly.

Iwa: Mr. Chohei and Tomosuke will accompany you.

Cho: With all pleasure.

Iye: Let's go at once, then.

Taku: I'll stay here during your absence.

(Takuetsu produces a black haori for Iyemon.)

Iye: We haven't boiled rice yet. Will you do it for me, Takuetsu?

Taku: Anything you want.

Iye: Keep your eye on the man in the closet.

(To O-Iwa) Well, this powder is the remedy for dizziness for you from the Ites.

Iwa: The nurse told me of it. I'll take it when the water boils.

Well, come back soon.

Iye: All right. Shall we go?

(Kanzo, Chobei, Iyemon and Tamosuke retire through the stage passage. Takuetsu goes into the inner rooms.)

Iwa (left alone): My husband Iyemon is always cold to me.

He isn't glad even for the baby boy. He abuses me and says the baby is such a burden. I stay here with him only because I wish he'd avenge my father. (Taking her comb in her hand and looking at it) This comb is my mother's keepeake. Chrysanthemums are painted on it, for she liked them very much. I've

kept it with me even in the sheer poverty,
for this will be the only keepsake to give
my sister when I die.

(The baby cries. O-Iwa walks about with
the baby in her arms.) Oh, I feel so
dizzy. I'll take the powder at once.

Iwa (having taken the medicine): I hope I'll feel better.
(Suddenly in pain). Why, I feel worse.
How hot I feel in my cheeks. Oh, it's so
painful.

Taku (coming in): Shall I make some soupe? (noticing
O-Iwa's pain)

Why, what's happened, ma'am?

Iwa: I feel so painful after taking that powder
medicine.

Taku: It's so bad. You'd better keep away from
the wind. Come here.

(Kohei knocks inside the closet.)

Taku: I won't let you escape, for I'll be
punished myself if I do. (To O-Iwa)
It's so bad you feel sick. (Takes care
of her.)

(The baby cries. Takuetsu hurries to him.)

Taku: Which shall I tend? How distressing!
(The stage goes round, as Takuetsu hurries
from one to the other.)

SCENE II.

Kihei Ito's Residence.

(A gorgeous house. As the stage steps, Iyemon sits at the seat of honour, attended by O-Yumi --- the dowager ----, and O-Maki the nurse. Chobei and Kanzo drink.)

Kihei, the master of the house, washes gold coins in a bowl and puts it in a box.

(A young boy comes in with dishes and cups.)

Maki: The soupe's ready. Shall I serve?

Yumi: Do so, please.

Iye (to Kihei): What's that you're washing, old gentleman?

Kihei: They're keban handed down from my ancestors. I always wash and polish them.

Ige: Ah, I see.

Cho: How envious

Kan: I envy you.

Yumi: Will you have a cup or two?

Cho: Oh, thanks.

Kan: How about the soupe for Mr. Iyemon?

Yumi: There's something special for him.

Cho: Well, shall we begin?

(As they take off the cover, there are gold coins in the soupe bowl.)

Che: Why, how nice.

Kan: Yes, very kind of the host.

Yumi: H He doesn't know how to thank you enough for bringing Mr. Iyemon.

Now, Maki, another bowl for them each.

Che & Kan): Oh, thanks.

(They put the coins into their pockets.
The young boy goes out with the empty bowls.)

Che: And how about the treatment for Mr. Iyemon?

Kan: I'd like to see it.

Yumi: Well, we've got to talk confidentially about it.

Che & Kan): Very well. We'll slip out

(They go out, attended by O-Maki.

As Kihei, Iyemon and O-Yumi are left, Kihei offers Iyemon the keban he had been polishing.)

Kihei: Will you please receive these coins?

Iye: What do you mean by that, please?

Yumi: I'll explain it soon.

(She brings O-Ume dressed as a bride.)

Yumi: This is the only daughter born between the late Matai and me. Her name is O-Ume.

Kihei: So she's my grand-daughter, you know. She has fallen sick out of love for you.

Yumi: Now, O-Ume, tell him all what you feel.

Ume: It's very kind of you to say so, mother.
Well, I don't know how it is, but I've
fallen deeply in love with you ever since
I saw you first.

Yumi: Though she hasn't taken to bed, she has
become so thin and haggard, that we felt
anxious and inquired her about it. And it
was all for you.

Ume: I've tried to give up, for you're married.
But it was all in vain and I wish to wait on
you even as a servant.

Kihei: I pray you, Mr. Iyemon, to comply with her
wish.

Yumi: We'd gladly let her serve you as a mistress if
we were of the merchant class. But, as we
are of the samurai, it'll be so disgraceful-----.

Iye: Well, I'm very grateful for her kindness,
but I've married into the Tamiya family,
you know-----

Kihei: Well, then, it's hopeless-----

Yumi: It's reasonable of him to say so, isn't
it, O-Ume?

Ume: Oh, yes, it is. I'll give him up, and to
prove it -----.

(Produces a razor from under her sash.)

Ume: Hail to the Buddha Amitabha. (About to kill herself.)

Che (hurrying in): Now, Mr. Iyemon, it's bad of you. Your wife O-Iwa is fatally ill. You'd better take Miss O-Ume to please her mother and grandfather.

Iye: I'll be much rebuked from society if I forsake O-Iwa.
(Kihei offers all the rest of the money to Iyemon.)

Kihei: Kill me, then, Mr. Iyemon.

Iye: What do you say?

Kihei: Well, I've sent poison to your lady to disform her face and make you disgusted of her; for I felt pity of my granddaughter and wished that you'd marry her after divorcing your wife. If my wish isn't to be accomplished, I'll have to give up myself.

Yumi: Oh, you've planned such a terrible thing for love of your girl?

Ume: I'll be punished by the Buddha for that.

~~Kihei~~ Kihei: Kill me, Mr. Iyemon.

Iye: But, I can't -----

Ume: I'll die myself. (About to kill herself.)

Uni (Checking her): Save her from death, Mr. Iyemon, please.

Iye: But -----

Kihei: Kill me, then.

Iye: But -----

All: But, but, but.

Kihei & Yumi): Answer us, will you?

Iye (after thinking for a moment): All right, then.

Kihei: Will you consent, then?

Iye: Yes, but there's a condition.

Kihei: And what's that?

Iye: I ask you to recommend me to Lord Kono.

Kihei: Of course you needn't ask it of me, now that you're to be -----.

Iye: Your son-in-law.

Yumi: It is said that the very day is a lucky day.

Kihei: Tonight will be the private wedding.

Che: Well, here's a cup. Take this, Miss O-Ume.

Ume: But -----

Yumi: She's so bashful.

Kihei: This is your husband. (Pushes Iyemon to O-Ume)

Iye: My wife.

Kihei & Yumi): Oh, thank you.

(The stage goes round.)

SCENE III

The Scene of Iyemon's Retirement.

(O-Iwa lies on the floor. Her face has become very ugly. She suffers very much from pain. Takuetsu is tending her.)

Taku: How do you feel, Mrs. O-Iwa?

Iwa: I feel very painful ---- after taking the medicine Mr. Kihei sent

Taku: I was very anxious. It has become pretty dark, I'll light the lamp.

Why, there's no oil. Shall I buy some for you?

Iwa: Yes, please; for I can't walk at all.

My purse is here under my pillow.

Taku: All right ma'am.

(He approaches her and looks at her face.)

Why, your face ----.

Iwa: What's happened?

Taku: Such a change in such a short time.

Well ---- well --- you look

so much ---- better, you know.

Iwa: I felt so much pain at first, but I'm much better now. (Saying so, she gives some money to him.)

Taku: I think I'll go now.

I'll be back soon,

Taku (at the door): That's so strange.

She has changed so much during so little a time.

Iwa: Are you still there?

Taku: I've broken the sanda-thong.

(Goes out through the stage passage.)

Iwa: Well, Mr. Ito's medicine may be good for dizziness, but I feel very hot in my face ---- as if I've drunk some bad wine. (The baby cries.)

There he cries again. I'll suckle him in bed.

(Doing so.) Baby dear, your father will be back soon. Let's go into the mosquito curtain. (Goes into the curtain.)

(Soon Iyemon comes into the stage passage deeply in thought.)

Iye: He said that the poison wouldn't do any harm to her life but change her features. How will she look? (Goes into the house.)

Iwa(mistaking him for Takuetsu): Have you got oil?

(Says behind the curtain.)

Iye: No; it's me.

Iwa: Is that you, Iyemon?

Iye: How do you feel? Did you take the powder Mr. Kihei sent?

Iwa: It seems to be good for dizziness, but I feel very hot and benumbed in the face. (Comes out of the mosquito curtain.)

Iye: What a change.

Iwa: What has changed?

Iye: Your face. Well ---- ah, your complexion has become much better all of a sudden.

Iwa: Oh, has it? But I feel as bad as ever. I know I'm to die in very short a time. Life isn't dear for me, but my soul won't rest in peace for love of this baby. Now, Mr. Tamiya, if I die, you won't, for a time ----.

Iye: Of course I will.

Iwa: What?

Iye: I'll marry again soon.

Iwa: You've been always heartless to me.

I stay with you only because ----

Iye: You want me to help you in avenging your father? I won't. I said I would, but I've changed my mind.

Iwa: Really?

Iye: Really. What will you do if I refuse? Well, well, we're hard up, as you know. Give me something to pawn.

(Finding O-Iwa's comb.)

Ah, I'll take this.

Iwa: Oh, it's my mothers' keepsake.

Iye: You won't let me have it for pawn?

The truth is this --- my sweetheart asks
me to buy her a comb.

I think I'll give her this.

Iwa: Oh, please don't.

Iye: All right. Give me money to buy one.

Moreover, I must dress up myself tonight.
Give me some money.

(Shakes O-Iwa)

Iwa: But there's nothing. Well, then ----.

(Takes off her clothes.)

Iwa: Take this please, then.

Iye: That's not enough. Something more.

(About to take the baby's dress.)

Iwa: It's too much to take the baby's
things. Moreover, it's a present from Mr. Ito.

Iye (sneering): Ah, I'll take the mosquito curtain.

Iwa (clinging to him): But, please, the baby will
suffer by mosquitoes all the night.

Iye: You're her mother. Fan out the mosquitoes.

(Shakes her harshly.)

Iwa: Cuch.

(After fighting for a time, Iyemon goes out with her dress and the mosquito curtain.)

Iwa (coming to herself after a time):

Now, Mr. Iyemon, leave the mosquito curtain, please. (looking round.)

Ah, he's gone now. The baby's so dear for me, though he's the son of such a cruel husband.

(The baby cries. O-Iwa makes a smudge to keep mosquitoes off.)

(Iyemon comes into the stage passage pulling Takuetsu by the hand.)

Takuetsu: It's too much, sir. O-Iwa-sama and I shall be much reputed then.

Iyemon: That's what I aim at. If it becomes as I've planned --- (Whispers something into Takuetsu's ear.)

Taku: Oh, you mean to have a wedding tonight?

Iye: Hush. (gives some money.)

Taku: Oh, you mean to make me ---

Iye: You'll be killed if you won't.

(Reigns to unsheathe his sword.)

Taku (trembling): All right, all right.

(Iyemon nods, and then retires.)

Taku (at the gate): Hullo, Mrs. O-Iwa.

Sorry to have kept you waiting. I've come to light the lamps.

(He lights the lamps.)

(O-Iwa comes in from the light.)

Iwa: Oh, have you returned? Well, Mr. Iyemon came during your absence and robbed me even of the mosquito curtain.

Taku: The baby will suffer much from mosquitoes.

Oh, it's so heartless of him.

And you seem to be thin-clothes.

Iwa: He has taken all my clothes when coldness is forbidden for my illness.

(becomes tearful.)

Taku: You've been peeled? I'm so very sorry

for you. Now, let me read your palm.

I'm very skilful in telling fortunes.

Taku (taking her hand): Well, this line is unhappy.

You're faithful to your husband and

yet have much trouble for him.

You'd better cut off the line by severing from him.

(Meantime he approaches her and acts amorously.)

Iwa(frightened): What do you mean by doing such a thing
toward a warrior's wife?

You'd never be forgiven if you do it again.

Taku (laughing): Oh, it's no use for you to
be so virtuous, for Eaq. Iyemon has long
changed his mind. You'd be in such a trouble
if you believe him. You'd better listen to
what I say.

Iwa(angry): What do you mean by saying such a thing?
You brute. Woman as I am, I was born a warrior's
daughter and am now the wife of another.

(Stands up with her dagger.)

Taku (frightened): What are you going to do?

Oh, it's dangerous.

(While trying to check her, he kicks the
dagger by mistake.)

Wait a minute, please, and be calm.

I'm sorry you know nothing, I'll tell you.

It's all falsehood. Don't be angry, please,
for it's all a forfeit. To say the truth,
you aren't a pretty lady that you once were.

It's such a pity you know nothing about it.

Iwa: Oh, I won't listen to you.

Taku: Well, you're a woman after all.

The medicine for dizziness Mr. Kihei gave you was a poison to disfigure your face.

Your face has quite altered, though you don't know it. Just look at this, and you'll know that what I say is very true.
(Produces a looking glass.)

Toku: Here.

Iwa: (receiving it) You tease me so much by saying so many bewildering things all at once.

Taku: Look at your own face.
You'll be much frightened.

Iwa: (O-Iwa looks at the glass and is much frightened):

Oh, some horrible woman is behind me.

Iwa: (after looking at the glass for a while)

Why, it's my dress and my coiffure ----

Why, why, it's me. It's me.

Well, well, what shall I do?

(Bursts into tears.)

Taku: Oh, I'm so very sorry, Mrs. O-Iwa.

There's some author to this, you know.

Mr. Kihei, your neighbour,

has long wished to marry his grand-daughter

O-Ume to Esq. Iyemon.

As Esq. Iyemon refused his proposal

for you, Mr. Kihei came to resent you.

He sent you some poison and made a fright of you, in order to make your husband get

disgusted of you. I'm so sorry you've been deceived.

Iwa (almost mad with indignance):

I knew nothing of it and felt grateful to him for having been so kind. I even bowed with thanks for having been given the poison. They must be laughing at me.
(Bursts into tears again.)

Taku (approaching her):

Well, it is not all, though. Mr. Iyemon has become disgusted of you, and has made up his mind to become Mr. Kihei's son-in-law. He asked me to flirt with you. It is in order to give him a pretext to sever from you. I refused, but he threatened me with his sword. So I had nothing to do but obey him and take liberty with you. Moreover, he has taken your clothes to enrich his wardrobe as this evening is his wedding, you know. Well, after all, I didn't flirt with you at my own will. Now shall I, when you look so hideous?

Iwa:

Oh, I'm to die for morrow.

I'll just go to Mr. Kihei and tell him what I feel.

(About to go.)

Taku (checking her): Oh, you'll be treated as a mad woman,
for you look really frightful.

Iwa (looking at the mirror again):

I do look frightful. So disshevelled.
I'll brush my hair and black my teeth,
at least ----- Prepare my things for dyeing
my teeth.

Taku: Oh, it's against custom that a woman in labour
should dye her teeth.

Iwa (irritated): All right. Hurry.

Taku: Oh, yes, yes, ma'am.

(Takuetsu carries in teeth-dyeing things
for O-Iwa. O-Iwa blacks her teeth.

Meantime the new-born baby cries.

Takuetsu goes to it and pats on its back.

Taku: Dear baby, your mother will come to you
soon. Be quiet, please.

Iwa (who has finished blacking her teeth
looking at her comb):

My mother gave this comb to me in her
dying bed. I with my younger sister
may use this for my memory/.

Well, I'll comb my hair with this for the last time.

(She combs her hair. As she finishes and looks up, much of her hair has fallen out, which makes her look more shastly than ever.)

Iwa: I am now to die, and O-Ume will marry my husband. Oh, how I resent Iyemon. And, --ihei and his family, too ----. I'll never let them live on in peace.

(As she takes up the comb with the fallen hair, much blood drops from the hair.)

Taku: Why, the fallen hair sheds blood. (trembles.)

Iwa: I'll just revenge.

(Why crying, she becomes breathless.)

Taku(hurrying to her with the baby in his hand.):

Now, Mrs O-Iwa, please.

(O-Iwa staggers. She falls on Kohei's dagger which Takuetsu kicked off in the beginning of the scene. The blade stabs her throat and she falls down.)

Taku: Why, Kohei's blade has given the coup
de grace.

(He drops the baby out of his arms.

A big rat appears and pulls the baby
out of stage.)

Taku: I can stay here no more.

(Escapes to the stage passage.)

(Iyemon comes in dressed up.)

Iye: Now, Takuetsu, how is all?

Taku: Well, I'm quite upset. A rat, a rat.

(Hurries out.)

Iye: He has run off so flurriedly.

Well, about turning. O-Iwa away, ---- ah,
that's it. I'll just lay the blame on
Kohei.

Iye (at the gate): O-Iwa, where are you?

(Finding her body)

Why, she has died ---- by Kohei's blade.

How could he kill her, when he's in there.

(Pulls Kohei out of the closet.)

He's still bound -----.

Ah, I'll just make him partake her fate.

Kohei: How base you are, Mr. Iyemon,
to have killed Mrs. O-Iwa with misery.

Iye: Shut up. Your dagger killed her.

Kohei: How could I, when I've stayed in there all bound up?

Iye: Moreover, you've heard all the intrigue of the neighbour Itos.

I can't let you live on.

(Kills Kohei.)

(Chobei and Kanzo come in.)

Cho: Why, you've killed Kohei ----.

Kan: Mr. Iyemon.

Iye: He has heard all our plan.

Moreover, he had an illicit intercourse with O-Iwa.

Cho: Is that true?

Kan: And the bodies?

Iye: Well, I'll fasten them to a shutter and throw in the river as a warning to others.

Cho):

Kan)

All right.

Iye: Don't speak so loudly.

(The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)

ACT III

The Canal Embankment, Fukagawa.

(A bank in the back stage.

A bridge on the right. The canal runs across the stage

O-Yumi and O-Maki live here as beggars. O-Yumi is ill
and O-Maki tends her.)

Maki: How do you feel, Ma'am?

Yumi: Oh, much better, thanks. My only concern
is the missing Iyemon Tamiya,
who has killed my father and daughter after having
been patronized by us.

Maki: It's much a pity you took such a man for son-in-law
and came to wander as a beggar to seek for
him. All your properties has been
taken by Lord Hono, too.

Yumi (taking an amulet out of her pocket)

My daughter O-Une carried this
to the end of her death.

It's regrettable that it had no charm
over that man.

Maki: Oh, regrets would be bad for the salvation
of her soul. Just pray for her, while I make
dinner for you.

(O-Maki washes rice.

O-Yumi hangs the amulet on a bamboo branch and prays. As she takes it from the branch, a big rat runs in and carries off the amulet.)

Yumi: Why, a rat.

Maki: Where did it come from?

(They run after the rat. It jumps into the river with the amulet in its mouth.)

Maki(confused): Why, what shall we do?

(She tries to catch the rat and falls into the river.

Yumi(catching O-Maki by the sash):

Oh, dangerous.

(Meantime O-Maki disappears into the water leaving her sash in O-Yumi's hand, who faints and falls on the sand.)

(Soon Naosuke comes in with a fish-spear for catching eels.)

Naosuke(in the stage passage): We've got

such a little fishing this year.

There must be many eels here, for the water is conveniently muddy.

He goes into the river and seeks in the river-bed. Soon he seems to have caught something, for he pulls up the spear. The spear soon comes up with O-Ira's fallen hair and her comb.

Nao(examining them): Oh, it's made of tortoise-shell.
Not bad.

(He climbs up the bank and smokes.)

(O-kuma, Iyemon's mother, comes down the bank with a grave-marker in her hand. Iyemon follows her with fishing baskets and poles, his face hidden in a sedge hat.)

Iyemon: Oh, mother, it's good to see you so well.

Kuma: I've been so anxious about you, and am so glad to see you well. I once served in Lord Kono's mansion and have his letter of recommendation here. You'll be taken in his service if you show this to him.
(Gives a letter to Iyemon.)

Iye: Oh, thank you so much.

Well, what is the grave-mark for?

Kuma: I just tried to cause a reputation that you're dead, lest you should be taken revenge by the family of those you killed.

Iye: Oh, so wise of you. Just place it here to rest your heart.

Kuma: All right. I'll put it where many people may see. Just go to Teranachi at once.
I'll follow you soon.

Iye: Certainly.

Kuma: Well, then ----.

Iye: See you soon, mother.
(O-Kuma retires, leaving the grave-mark on the bank.)

Naosuke has looked at and listened to them all the while.)

Iyemon(looking round):

Shall I fish here? (Hangs a few fishing poles into the river.)

ye(taking his pipe out of his pocket):

May I have a light, please?

Nao: Yes, of course.

Nao(peeping into Iyemon's face): It's very long since I saw you last, Mr. Iyemon.

Iye: Why, you're Naosuke.

Nao: Oh, I'm Gombel, the eel-fisher now.

You're kind of my sister-in-law's enemy, hay?

Iye(surprised): Why on earth?

Nao: Oh, have you forgotten? My wife O-Sode was younger sister to O-Iwa, Yotsuya-Samon's

daughter. It's fortunate that I happened to meet you here. Well, I won't challenge you, so remember and let me have that letter of recommendation when I require it.

Iye: Oh, it's quite all right.

(While they talk, a fishing line moves.

Iyemon pulls it.

The's a little fish.)

Nao: Here it comes.

(Another movement on the line:)

Nao: Comes again.

(A big cat-fish comes up.)

Nao: Oh, it escapes.

(As the fish tries to slip away, Iyemon takes the stupa --- wooden grave-mark --- O-Kuma left, and catches the fish with it. As he drops the grave-mark/

on the sand, O-Yumi comes to herself and finds it.)

Yumi: Why, "the late Tamiya-Iyemon."

(At her surprised voice, Iyemon notices her and hides his face deeply in the hat.)

Yumi: May I ask you something, sir?

Nao: Well, what?

Yumi: I've found a grave-mark written "the late Tamiya-Iyemon." Has she died of some disease?

Naos: Of course not. He's here -----.
(about to point to Iyemon, who signs
him not to speak.)

Nao: Oh, he died, oh, yes.
No one will make a stupa for a living man.

Yumi: And when did he die?
(Iyemon writes something on the sand.)

Nao: Oh, it's just forty-nine days since he died.

Yumi: Oh, is it so? (Weeping) He's the enemy
of my father and my daughter.
I've got nothing to live for, now that he's
dead. (Looks remorseful.)
(Meantime Iyemon has approached her little,
by little. As she finishes speaking, he
kicks her into the water.)

Nao(looking at each other with Iyemon):
You're so smart, Mr. Iyemon.

Iye: Oh, not so much. Just influenced by examples.

Nao: Sels are to be out with sharp knives ----,

Iye: But they move even when their
heads have been cut off.

Nao: Good for you.

Iye: I didn't intend to at first, but it was unfortunate both for her and for me that she happened to come here.

(The line moves.)

Iye (pulling up the line): Why, the bait has been taken off.

(Chobei comes in with her face hidden in a scarf.)

Chobei (noticing Iyemon): Ah, you're her, Mr. Tamiya.

I'm in a big trouble, all your times having fallen over me. I'll just tell all to the authorities.

Remember and don't resent me, for you're to blame.

Iye: Oh, they'll forget all about it in a short time. Just fly from here for some time.

Cho: Oh, give me the expense, then.

Iye: How could I, when I'm so poor?

Cho: All right, I'll just go and tell.

(About to go)

Iye: Oh, please don't.

(Takes out the letter of recommendation O-Kuma has given him.)

Iye: All right. I'll give this into your keeping.

Cho: I see. That'll do for the time being.

Iye: Give it back to me when I give you the money.

Cho: Certainly. (Puts the letter into his pocket.)

Iye: Well, Mr. Akiyama.

Cho: Take care of yourself. (Goes out.)

Iye: I had to give him that to make him keep silence. Well, shall I go now?

(The stage becomes darker with a ghastly music. A shutter comes floating down the river with a straw covering over it.)

Iye: Ah, that is the shutter ----.

(He takes off the straw mat. O-Iwa's body appears from under it. The flesh has gone off. The hand bears the amulet the rat had carried before.)

Iye: You still haunt this world.

(O-Iwa glares at him and shows him the amulet.)

Iwa: My resentment shall break off your lineage and kill all Kihei Ito's descendants.

Iye (turning round the shutter): And the back of the board ----.

(Kohei's body appears from under water-weeds.)

Kohei (opening his eyes and holding out his hand.): My master's ill. Give me your medicine.

Iye: Another ghost. (Gives a cut over Kohei's body.)

(The body turns into skeleton, falls into pieces and down into the river.)

Iyemon gives a deep sigh.

Naosuke peeps from behind a rick in the middle.

Yomoshichi, attired as a beggar, steals

in from the left and crimps the bank.

The three on the stage fight with one another.

O-Mon, mistress of a tooth-peck shop,
comes in and joins their fighting in the dark.
They all put their hands on the edge of the
big fishing basket, when a ghastly flame
gleams out of it it light their faces.

They all cast down their faces.

The curtain falls with the sound of wooden
clappers, as they part from one another.)

ACT IV

Hermitage at Abbiyama, Honjo.

(Iyemon lies in a ragged bed. A Buddhist altar on the left. Six prayers recite rosary.)

Gannen(a prayer): "May all the creations start on the way of enlightenment by the virtue of His Vow."

Prayers: Hail to the Buddha Amitabha (Iyemon, looking tired and ill, staggers out of bed.)

Iye: You still haunt me, O-Iwa? (About to sheathe his sword.)

(The prayers try to stop him.)

Gannen: Be yourself, Mr. Iyemon.
We're all here.

Prayers: Calm down, Mr. Iyemon.

Iye(coming to himself): Ah, so it was a dream.

Gannen: A dreadful dream?

Iye: It was very cowardly of me to have been afraid of ghosts. Well, you must be so tired. Have a little rest, please.

Can: Well, we'll try again ----.

Iye: Later.

(The prayers retire. Iyemon lights the lamp.

As he prays, O-Iwa's ghost appears with her baby in her arms.

Iyemon, quite surprised, hesitates.)

Iye: You still haunt this world, O-Iwa. Now, listen to me. You have reduced me to what I am, and have derived the Itos of their lives. You've even caused an unnatural death to my baby. Go away, woman.

(O-Iwa's ghost shows him the baby in her arms.)

Iye: Ah, you bring him up in your hands?

(Takes the baby in his arms.)

Iye: Oh, it's good for you. Rest in peace, then. Hail to the Buddha Amitabha.

(O-Iwa puts her hands to her ears and tries not to hear the prayer.)

As Iyemon looks at the baby, it has turned into a stone Buddha.)

Iye: Why, it's the Buddha Jizo.

Iwa: Hi-hi-hi. (laughs ghastly and disappears.)

Iye (unsheathing his sword): Ah, it's no use to pray for her.

(Chobei Akiyama comes hurrying in.)

Cho: Come to my aid. A rat, a rat.

Iye: Oh, you're Akiyama. I was to enter into the service of lord Kono, with the letter of recommendation which I've given into your keeping. Give it back to me.

Cho: Of course I shall; for, ever since the night I took it with me as pledge, a big rat has always hanted me and gnawed even my hair and nails. Take the letter, I pray you.
(Produces the letter out of his pocket and gives it to Iyemon.)

Iye: Oh, thank you.
(As he opens the letter, he finds it torn into pieces.)

Iye: It's all torn off though the envelope is quite all right. It must be O-Iwa's doing, too.
(O-Iwa's ghost appears from out of the altar and takes off Chobei with her.)

Iye: Oh, now terrible.
(O-Iwa laughs ghastly. The curtain falls as Iyemon unsheathes his sword.)

ACT V

Revenge

The scene in the campus of O-Iwa Shrine.

(A shrine in the back stage. It has been built for O-Iwa's salvation. Lamps and lanterns are lighted, for it is the festival

In the middle stage, Iyemon stands with his sword unsheathed. Matanojo and Yomoshichi challenge him.
(A crowd of people surround them.)

Matanojo: Prepare to meet your god, Iyemon.

Yomoshichi: You've killed Samon, my father-in-law and
O-Iwa, my sister-in-law.

Mata)

Yomo): Prepare for death.

Iye: You impertinent. You'll be also killed.

Mata)

Yomo): Mind what you say.

(A fighting scene, in which the crowd take some part. In the meantime Matanojo and Yomoshichi give a fatal cut to Iyemon. The curtain falls with a gay music.)

End